

Most famously, he is remembered as one of only seven Members to take a stand against the escalation of the Vietnam War, voting to end funding for military operations in Vietnam in 1965. In one of the first votes he cast in the House he bucked his party and the very popular president who had been largely responsible for Dow's election.

It would not be until many years later that Dow's vote and his activism against the Vietnam War would be regarded as prescient. As a local editorial writer pointed out some years after the controversial vote, "Dow was a dove from the start, not one who evolved to the point of view."

No less important was Dow's strong stance against the constitutional amendment to prohibit burning the American flag. Dow wisely argued that such an amendment would actually amend the Constitution twice—by adding a new amendment and by curtailing the freedom of speech and expression guaranteed in the First Amendment, that amendment which was most prized by our founding fathers. Ultimately, that vote cost him re-election in 1968, but I cannot imagine a more honorable way to lose one's seat in Congress than in defense of the integrity of our Constitution.

During his first two consecutive terms in the House, from 1965 to 1969, Congressman Dow supported some of the most important legislation of his generation. He was an enthusiastic supporter of the Civil Rights movement, traveling to Jackson, Mississippi and Selma, Alabama to appear with the Reverend Martin Luther King, Jr. in support of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Voting Rights Act of 1965, and fighting for funding for school integration plans. He worked hard for the passage of Johnson's Great Society programs, for the establishment of rural and community development programs for rural areas, and voted to provide minimum wage protection for farm workers. Always, Dow argued that the military buildup must not crowd out such critical domestic needs.

When New York voters returned him to the House in the 1970 election, his committee assignments allowed him to shift his focus toward foreign policy and environmental protection. His record on human rights for peoples around the world was without parallel, recommending that foreign aid be directed toward "peaceful objectives . . . and not helping other countries carry on war." He fought the Nixon Administration on bringing the Vietnam conflict to a close, worked to increase funding for the Peace Corps, and sought trade restrictions on apartheid-era South Africa. Congressman Dow was also instrumental in strengthening the Federal Environmental Pesticide Act of 1971, which was reported out of the Agriculture Committee riddled with loopholes to benefit polluters, and the Federal Water Pollution Amendments of 1972. He introduced legislation to establish the Council for Environmental Quality, to create a permanent House committee on the environment, and to require the federal government to use only recycled paper.

When Dow lost his bid for re-election in 1972, he did not ease gently into retirement. On the contrary, he remained just as active and engaged in civic life as during his years in Congress. He ran for Congress three more times unsuccessfully, and then devoted his efforts to the burgeoning antinuclear movement. Through the early 1980s, he was a vocal op-

ponent and stalwart activist opposing the Reagan Administration's defense policies. He continued to argue aggressively that out of control military spending was hurting the economy and denying Americans adequate health care and education.

Throughout his long and full life, John Dow never failed to be on the side of peace, justice and economic opportunity for all. He devoted his life to these principles and stuck to them even when it was not politically convenient to do so. His moral compass never strayed and his compassion for others never wavered. For me, he embodied the highest ideals of representation in this body.

I believe Congressman Dow's former colleague and esteemed veteran of this body, the late Congressman Morris Udall (D-Ariz) said it best: "Vigorous, kind, candid, honest with himself, his constituents and his colleagues—John Dow is a most remarkable man and public service. I am proud to be his friend."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BETTY MCCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, May 6, 2003, I was unavoidably detained in my district and missed rollcall votes 159, 160, and 161.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 159, 160, and 161.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXPAND DEFENSE DEPARTMENT AUTHORITY FOR NUNN- LUGAR COOPERATIVE THREAT REDUCTION PROGRAMS

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation that is of utmost importance to our national security and our future as a global community. My legislation will expand the Defense Department's authority for Nunn-Lugar cooperative threat reduction programs outside of the former Soviet Union. My bill will authorize efforts to dismantle and destroy nuclear, chemical, and other weapons of mass destruction in nations such as Pakistan, India, North Korea, China, Iran, and Iraq. These programs have a single objective: to reduce stockpiles of nuclear (and non-nuclear) materials in both military and nonmilitary facilities that may be converted to weapons of mass destruction to prevent such highly dangerous materials from being stolen or sold to terrorist organizations.

It is critical for our national security to ensure that terrorists do not have easy access to weapons of mass destruction, particularly nuclear weapons. Over a decade ago, the landmark Nunn-Lugar cooperative threat reduction legislation, the initiative of Senators Nunn and Lugar, was signed into law. This initiative was born out of necessity to ensure that the nuclear arsenal of the Soviet Union would not fall into the wrong hands as the Soviet empire

was coming apart. Throughout the latter half of the Cold War, the Soviet and the US camps had achieved mutually assured destruction capability, which had resulted in an uneasy yet stable security with regard to our nuclear arsenals. The enemy was clear and identifiable. However, the demise of the Soviet empire ushered in a new post-Cold War period with unclear and unidentifiable threats, and a new and very real sense of urgency, instability and insecurity.

At this critical juncture, Congress established the Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction (CTR) program in 1991, authorizing the use of Defense Department funds to assist with the safe and secure transportation, storage, and dismantlement of nuclear, chemical and other weapons in the former Soviet Union. In the ten years since, while much has been done to dismantle Russia's and the former Soviet Republics' nuclear weapons, the dangers persist, and in some cases have increased.

In addition to the traditional nuclear weapons and materials concerns in the former Soviet Union, there are new and emerging threats from nuclear proliferators such as North Korea, Pakistan, and China, as well as Libya, Iran, Iraq, and stateless terrorist organizations headed by individuals such as Osama Bin Laden, that are actively in search of their next deal on nuclear weapons technology and components. It is this latter type of threat—the unclear, mobile, and not easily identifiable source of threat—that compels us to continue and increase our efforts to secure nuclear weapons and materials wherever they may be found.

The world has changed, and with it so to have the threats. We cannot afford to cut back on such worthwhile programs as Nunn-Lugar and other non-proliferation programs. There is much work to be done, and we must be increasingly vigilant in an ever-changing world with new threats that go far beyond nuclear weapons.

Significant progress has been made thus far, as reported in the May 2001 Cooperative Threat Reduction Scorecard issued by the Department of Defense. With regard to the established CTR Baseline attributed to Russia under the START process, the Nunn-Lugar program has successfully deactivated 5,504 of the 13,300 Warheads; destroyed 423 of the 1,473 ICBMs; eliminated 383 of the 831 ICBM Silos; eliminated 85 of the 167 Bombers; destroyed 483 of the 487 Long-Range Nuclear ALCMs; eliminated 352 of the 728 SLBM Launchers; eliminated 209 of the 936 SLBMs; destroyed 19 of the 48 SSBNs; and sealed all 194 Nuclear Test Tunnels. In addition, Ukraine, Kazakhstan and Belarus—the three former Soviet nuclear powerhouses—are nuclear weapons free, according to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency of the Department of Defense.

The Nunn-Lugar Cooperative Threat Reduction program can and should be credited for significant achievements in reducing threats from the former Soviet Union. However, continuing economic and social weaknesses in Russia, coupled with an eroding early warning system, poorly secured Russian nuclear, biological and chemical weapons and materials, and poorly paid Russian weapons scientists and security personnel, increase the threat of mass destruction on an unprecedented scale, especially if they fall into the hands of terrorists or rogue nations.

Mr. Speaker, now more than ever we must make a fundamental shift in the way we think about nuclear weapons, the spread of weapons of mass destruction, and our national security. My bill will authorize the Department of Defense to expand their cooperative threat reduction programs outside of the former Soviet Union.

URGING THE FCC TO RELEASE ITS TRIENNIAL REVIEW

HON. MICHAEL BILIRAKIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the inaction of the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) regarding the Triennial Review of the 1996 Telecommunications Act adopted on February 20, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, regardless of where members come down on the issue of local telephone competition, one thing is clear to all of us; NO ONE has seen the order which was adopted more than two months ago. If the House of Representatives considers legislation pertaining to this matter, we should have the actual document to review before we vote.

The FCC adopted rules dealing with local telephone competition more than two months ago that have yet to be put to paper so that the affected companies can review the order, and the telecommunications industry is hemorrhaging. Jobs, capital investment and investor equity are being squandered at an unprecedented rate. This lack of clarity is prolonging this downward spiral. Many have referred to the chaos and uncertainty in the industry caused by this order. While some of this may be rhetoric, every day that goes by adds more credence to the fact that the delay in the release of this order is detrimental to the telecommunications industry.

I urge the FCC to release its Triennial Review as soon as possible.

YOUNG ISRAEL HONORS LANCE KAWESCH AND EMILY STEIN

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, on this coming Sunday, May 11, Young Israel of Brookline, Massachusetts will honor Lance Kawesch and Emily Stein, "for the years of excellent service, tireless devotion and total dedication to Young Israel and our community."

Mr. Kawesch and Ms. Stein joined Young Israel shortly after their marriage, and have been hard working and valuable members of the Congregation ever since. Lance has served as President, and Emily is the Office Manager and Director of Operations. Between them, they have organized, supported, and contributed to a wide range of the important educational, religious, charitable and cultural activities which mark the work of Young Israel. Young Israel is a vibrant part of the district

which I represent, and I am pleased to have the chance to join the members of Young Israel in saluting the important work of Lance Kawesch and Emily Stein.

HUMAN RIGHTS IN BELARUS AND CHECHNYA

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, as Co-Chairman of the Organization on Security and Cooperation in Europe, I have followed with particular concern both the deadly climate in Chechnya and the deterioration of human rights in Belarus. Such violations of basic human rights deserve focused criticism, and it is appropriate that the agenda of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights included resolutions on each situation.

On April 17, the U.N. Commission voted 23-14 with 16 abstentions to approve a U.S.-cosponsored resolution urging the Belarusian authorities to investigate "fully and impartially" credible reports that senior government officials were involved in the disappearances in 1999 and 2000 of leading opposition figures and a journalist.

I have followed these cases closely and have become increasingly frustrated at the Belarusian regime's intransigence in meaningfully investigating these disappearances. Here in Washington and at OSCE Parliamentary Assembly meetings in Paris and Berlin, I have had occasion to meet with the wives of the disappeared. These meetings have been heart-wrenching. The cases of their husbands—who disappeared in 1999 and 2000 and are presumed to have been murdered—offer a chilling glimpse into the nature of the regime of Belarusian dictator Alexander Lukashenko, a regime that has the worst human rights record in Europe today. In February, I introduced H.R. 854, the Belarus Democracy Act, designed to bolster democratic development in that beleaguered country, and I am pleased that the State Department authorization bill approved yesterday by the House International Relations Committee includes key provisions of the Belarus Democracy Act. This bill encourages sanctions against the Belarusian regime until certain conditions are met, including a full accounting of these tragic disappearances.

The Belarusian people deserve to live in a society where democratic principles and human rights are respected and the rule of law is paramount, and I believe that the passage of the U.N. Human Rights Commission resolution is an important step towards that end.

Mr. Speaker, I wish I could report that the U.N. Commission on Human Rights had acted with equal conscience on the issue of Chechnya. We all know the desperate human rights situation in that war-torn region of the Russian Federation. Since the Chechen war reignited in 1999, international and domestic Russian human rights organizations have documented the disproportionate and indiscriminate use of force by elements of the Russian military, as well as extrajudicial killings, abuse

of prisoners, kidnaping, rape, and extortion of civilians. According to official statistics, 2,800 persons are missing in Chechnya; mutilated bodies of young Chechen males turn up almost daily. A representative of the respected human rights organization Memorial reported at a recent Helsinki Commission briefing that "one of the recent tendencies is to explode the corpses" in order to prevent identification. Needless to say, all of this is in clear violation of the Geneva Convention and the OSCE Code of Conduct during internal conflicts.

What's left of the Chechen capital of Grozny after Russian artillery shelling has been compared to the ruins of Stalingrad in 1943. According to the U.N., there are 92,000 internally displaced persons forced to flee from the fighting, with around 17,000 living in tent camps in neighboring Ingushetia.

Chechen forces are not entirely blameless. There are credible reports of their executing prisoners and using non-combatants as human shields. They have also assassinated pro-Moscow Chechen officials. The U.S. Government has placed three militant groups involved in the Chechen resistance on its list of terrorist groups.

Still, is this an excuse for Russia's savage war against the civilian population?

Despite all the documentation and eyewitness testimony on egregious human rights violations committed in Chechnya, the Commission on Human Rights rejected by a vote of 15-21 an even-handed European Union resolution expressing deep concern at the reported ongoing violations of international law in Chechnya. I note that the U.S. delegation did not cosponsor the resolution, though it did support it when the measure came to a vote. We should not be surprised that China, Sudan and Zimbabwe voted against the resolution. I do find it disconcerting, though, that the delegations of Armenia and Ukraine are in that less than distinguished company.

Ambassador Jean Kirkpatrick, Head of the U.S. Delegation to the U.N. Commission noted: "The United States believes it important that the Commission address the serious human rights abuses that have occurred in Chechnya. We recognize Russia's right to defend its territorial integrity and itself against terrorism. The broader conflict in Chechnya cannot be resolved militarily and requires a political solution. Human rights violations by Russian forces in Chechnya need to be curtailed, and abusers held accountable."

So the people of Chechnya continue to suffer, and the U.N. Commission on Human Rights looks the other way.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, May 9, 2003

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on April 29, 2003 through May 1, 2003, due to medical reasons, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall Nos. 146 through 158.

Had I been present for the votes, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall votes 146, 147, 148, 150, and 158; and I would have voted "nay" on rollcall votes 149, 151, 152, 153, 154, 155, 156, and 157.